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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### Child Support Recovery Unit

#### Description

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) is responsible for assisting custodial parents eligible to receive court-ordered child and medical support and for processing support payments. Any custodial parent may ask for assistance from the CSRU at no charge, although there is a fee of \$35 that is collected from the obligee after \$550 in support has been distributed to the obligee.

#### Services

The CSRU provides a variety of services for custodial parents, including locating noncustodial parents and their sources of income, establishing paternity, establishing and modifying support orders, and registering other states' orders for enforcement or modification. In FY 2021, the CSRU served 528,715 parents and children on 150,203 cases, processing more than 2.5 million support payments for a total of \$321.4 million. The CSRU filed 9,000 affidavits establishing paternity, 4,560 orders establishing paternity and support, and 2,963 modifications of child support orders. The average annual cost to provide services is \$396 per case.

The CSRU uses a variety of methods to collect support from noncustodial parents, such as:

- Directing employers to withhold a portion of wages.
- Intercepting federal and State tax refunds.
- Garnishing money from accounts or financial institutions.
- Restricting the issuance of driver's licenses, professional and recreational licenses, motor vehicle registrations, and passports.
- Making referrals to credit agencies.
- Obtaining contempt of court orders against delinquent obligors.

Child support is recovered through 22 field offices, a centralized employer call center, the Collection Services Center, and a central operations unit.

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#### More Information

Child Support Recovery Unit: [dhs.iowa.gov/child-support](https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-support)  
DHS Child Support Customer Website: [secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/customerweb](https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/customerweb)  
LSA Staff Contact: Jess R. Benson (515.281.4611) [jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov)

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**Funding**

The CSRU budget is funded by a combination of State General Fund appropriations totaling 27.0%, federal funds totaling 70.0%, and other funds totaling 3.0%.

**Child Support Recovery and the Family Investment Program**

Child Support Recovery Unit collections will reimburse Iowa's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, called the Family Investment Program (FIP), for the State's share in public assistance collection. This reimbursement totals approximately \$5.2 million annually.

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapters [252B](#), [252C](#), [252D](#), [252E](#), [252F](#), [252H](#), [252I](#), [252J](#), and [252K](#)  
Iowa Administrative Code [441—95](#) through [99](#)

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